

California School News Weekly Update
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California school news

weekly update



March 19, 2014

Upcoming Events

Board Self-eval/Superintendent Evaluation

April 8 - San Jose
April 29 - Rancho Cucamonga

CSBA Training for Executive Assistants

April 8 - San Jose
April 11 - Sacramento
April 29 - Rancho Cucamonga

2014 Delegate Assembly May Meeting

May 17 - Sacramento

News

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Start of Common Core-aligned field tests delayed until next week

Sacramento COE-designed website offers new resources for Smarter Balanced tests

California's Smarter Balanced field tests scheduled to begin yesterday have been delayed a week, [it was announced Friday](#). In the meantime, the Consortium for the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards has launched a new website, betechready.org, a technology readiness resource for the state's new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress—the successor to the state's Standardized Testing and Reporting program. The new website "provides an ideal opportunity for districts and schools to assess their technological capacity to deliver the tests to students," according to the home page. The website design and database were developed by the Sacramento County Office of Education with the input and cooperation of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association Technology and Communications Steering Committee. A two-minute video offers a clear guide to using the website effectively. The material is closely aligned with—and links to—California Department of Education resources, and is intended for use by the public as well as school staff and administrators.

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Toolkit

State Board Member Action Day will be May 9 *Watch for details at www.csba.org*

Do you want a say on the [2014-15 state budget](#)? Do you support Senate Bill 843, the CSBA-sponsored bill to [protect California's students from teacher misconduct](#) by reforming the teacher dismissal process? If so, then make plans to participate in CSBA's State Board Member Action Day! Friday, May 9, we'll have appointments arranged so school governance team members can visit state legislators' local district offices. We'll coordinate the grassroots lobbying effort, but we need your help to make it a success. Please reserve May 9 on your calendar, and watch for details soon in the Weekly Update.

SBE suspends use of Academic Performance Index LCFF, Common Core tests edge out old accountability system

With little fanfare, the California State Board of Education last week suspended use of the Academic Performance Index for two years as the accountability mechanism for the state's public schools. Assembly Bill 484 already replaced the previous Standardized Testing and Reporting program with a new one aligned with the Common Core State Standards, so the API is no longer a valid measure of school and district performance, [Item 15 of the State Board's agenda](#) states. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the new Smarter Balanced tests this year and next, which will become the foundation of the testing indicator of a new school accountability system due to resume in 2015-16. The vision for a redesigned API, whatever it is called, is to include other indicators, such as graduation rates, college and career readiness, attendance rates, English learner reclassification rates and other factors. But developing a new accountability system remains on hold while the state works to implement the Local Control Funding Formula and Common Core assessments. For more about the timeline for updating California's API system, see this [report from EdSource](#).

New governance brief series launched: English Learners in Focus

Important insights into California's 1.3 million-plus English learners—nearly a quarter of total K-12 enrollment—are offered in CSBA's newest series of governance briefs. [English Learners in Focus](#) is "designed to help school board members understand and support students who are not yet proficient in English. Authored by Policy and Programs Director Julie Maxwell-Jolly, Ph.D., the eight-page brief unpacks demographic and achievement data, noting for example that "44% of the state's students live in households where the language spoken at home—some, if not all of the time—is other than English. This has important implications for districts, not only with regard to their education programs but also as they reach out and include parents in the development of their Local Control and Accountability Plans" required under the state's new Local Control Funding Formula. English Learners in Focus is posted under Student Achievement on CSBA's online [Governance Briefs page](#), where you can also find briefs on Conditions of Children, Effective Governance, Fair Funding and the Common Core State Standards.

Events, Training and Opportunities

CDHCS to hold Stakeholder Forum on School-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities

March 24 meeting in Sacramento concerns deferred payments to LEAs

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The California Department of Health Care Services is hosting a second Stakeholder Forum in Sacramento March 24 to address concerns about [School-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities](#) raised by school districts and education advocates. The federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services had announced in June 2012 that

all local educational agency claims would be deferred pending changes to the program. Currently, LEAs participating in the program are owed approximately \$600 million for past claims. CDHCS's Stakeholder Forum will be from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, March 24, at 1700 K St. Participation is open to all groups that have interest in or concerns for the SMAA program. Email the [SMAA mailbox](#) to RSVP and indicate if you will participate in person or to inquire about webinar or telephone conference line options.

April 3 webinar will offer guidance on LCAP facilities requirement

Santa Ana USD, CDE, others on Center for Cities & Schools panel

UC Berkeley's Center for Cities & Schools is offering a free 90-minute webinar, "Planning for 'Good Repair' in Local Control Accountability Plans" at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 3. LCAPs, required of every local educational agency under California's new Local Control Funding Formula, must address "school facilities in good repair," and this webinar will help LEAs assess their facilities and prepare to engage parents who advocate for improvements. Santa Ana Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Joe Dixon is among the panelists, who also include representatives from the Center for Cities & Schools, the State Allocation Board and Department of Education. [Register here.](#)

Presentation proposals sought for AEC 2014

Submit your ideas by April 4

CSBA's Annual Education Conference and Trade Show—coming to San Francisco Sunday, Dec. 14, through Tuesday, Dec. 16—is the place to showcase your district's innovative and successful programs and ideas. This year's strands, or areas of focus, are: opportunity and achievement; student learning; funding, finance and facilities; leadership through governance; and partnerships and collaborations. We're looking for CSBA members who can share their success stories in those areas during AEC presentations. Look for the AEC logo on CSBA's website or go straight to aec.csba.org/Presenters to learn how you can submit your conference presentation proposal. The deadline is April 4.

EdSource Symposium coming to LA May 7

Event coincides with partner California State PTA's annual convention

The 2014 EdSource Symposium, "The New Accountability: Testing Students and Evaluating Schools in the Age of the Common Core," is coming to the Los Angeles Convention Center May 7. Speakers include California Commission on Teacher Credentialing chair Linda Darling-Hammond, Ed.D.; State Board of Education Member Carl Cohn, Ed.D.; international education expert Michael Fullan, Ph.D.; and student testing authority David Conley, Ph.D. Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by a slate of presentations and panel discussions from 9 to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$58 or, for \$117, registrants can also visit education exhibits and workshops on the first day of the California State PTA's May 7-10 annual convention; the State PTA is partnering with EdSource on the symposium. [Find out](#)

[more here.](#)

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